

From: John Justice
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 1:53pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Hello, I'm writing a quick note with some thoughts on the proposed settlement in the Microsoft case.

As a developer, I write applications every day. But I (and thousands of others) would never dare to write programs that compete directly with Microsoft, as there's no way to win that battle. The problem is that any application written by Microsoft will inevitably work better on Windows, because the Microsoft application can use parts of the Windows APIs (application programming interfaces) that no one but Microsoft knows about. Without making these APIs completely public (and the file formats of the Microsoft Office applications public as well), the playing field will never be level between Microsoft and independent software developers (me).

Thank you for your time. Please don't allow this weak proposed settlement to go through.

"The number you have dialed is imaginary.

Please rotate your phone 90 degrees and try again."

***** John Justice *** jjjustice@acm.org *****